

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 58-84 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The invention features an apparatus and method for providing the detection and identification of an object provided with identification means and wireless transmission means. The apparatus and method comprises an object electromagnetically coupling the wireless transmission means with a first of a plurality of fixed antennae each associated with a receiver module among said plurality of receiver modules; and switching, in an analogue manner, between each of the fixed antennae and a secondary fixed antenna common to all of the fixed antennae such that the common secondary fixed antenna is electrically connected to each of the fixed antennae of each receiver module in succession, wherein the common secondary fixed antenna is electromagnetically coupled to a primary fixed antenna connected to a reader module configured to read identification data originating from the identification means. The closest prior art, Wang et al. (US Patent # 7,212,116 B2), Lin et al. (Pub # US 2002/0057208 A1), and Flick (Pub # US 2004/0032327 A1). Wang et al. teaches a smart antenna for RF reader on a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system to significantly increase the operating range of the RFID system; Lin et al. teaches an inventory control system for keeping track of inventory objects stored in a storage location. Each inventory objects has an object circuit with a receiving antenna, a crystal with a specific resonant frequency, a rectifier for deriving DC power from RF signals of the same frequency received by

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the antenna; and Flick teaches a secure, vehicle key, storage device is for a plurality of uniquely-coded vehicle keys. Each key includes a wireless transmitter. The reference, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above limitation obvious.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JACK WANG whose telephone number is (571)272-1938. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Bugg can be reached on 571-272-2998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JACK WANG/
Examiner, Art Unit 2612

/George A Bugg/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2612